

## LIFE GROUP Discussion Guide

Northend Church

### True Spirituality: Contentment

Philippians 4:10-20

A NOTE TO LEADERS: These questions are to guide your conversation. Don't be rigid about getting through every last one. Be sure to spend time on the application part.

#### OPEN:

1. Have you ever wanted to buy something, or actually bought something, believing that if you just had that you'd be content? How did that work out for you?

#### DIG:

- 1) Read Philippians 4:10-20

*10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength. 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. 17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

- 2) Mike said that **Wrapped into the subconscious of every human being is a longing for contentment.** What are your thoughts? How do you see this to be true?
- 3) What is Paul's secret to contentment (10-13)? How is being content an exercise in learning? How is it that Paul can write such things about contentment while he is in prison? What is the closest you have come to experiencing what Paul is talking about here?
- 4) Read James 5:1-6. What happens to people who obsess over greed and material things? Is it wrong to be rich? Is it a bad thing to have stuff? When do these things cause us to be discontent?
- 5) Read 1Timothy 6:6-8. Why do people believe material possessions or relationships, jobs.....will bring contentment? How does Paul's view of contentment compare with the modern world's view of contentment? Why does God want His children to be content? What is He trying to teach us? When we struggle to be content, what are we saying about our view of God and our relationship with Him?
- 6) How does learning contentment come through sharing and living in community with other believers (14-18)?

- 7) Mike said that contentment is discovered through our Father's riches (v.19). Paul says, "My God" clearly indicating a deep personal relationship with Jesus. Mike mentioned contentment is seeing God provide daily and through community with others. He also mentioned through daily forgiveness. How is forgiving others tied to your contentment?
- 8) As we see in 1 Timothy 6:6, godliness goes hand in hand with contentment. When we're focused on living God-honouring lives, our contentment is measured by what God is doing in us rather than what we have. How does godliness relate to contentment? What are some ways we can strive for godliness? What do you think is the "great gain in godliness with contentment" (v. 6)?

**APPLY:**

- 1) What does contentment look like in the everyday stuff of your life? In the pain and the joys?
- 2) In what circumstances do you most typically struggle to be content? Why? Are there any recurring themes for you?

**PRAY:**

Take some time praising and glorifying God for his grace, mercy, power and protection. Include time to pray specifically for each person and their walk with God, that they may learn to be content in all things and to be filled with the confidence and power of the Holy Spirit to develop into an all of life disciple. Conclude however the Holy Spirit leads you.